

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to communications: RCEX /Amendment filed 01 May 2008.

Claims 26, 28-56, 58-70 and 72-80 are pending in this case. Claims 26, 36, 46, 47, 58, 69 and 70 are independent claims.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01 May 2008 has been entered.

Applicant's Response

In Applicant's response dated 01 May 2008, Applicant amended claims 26, 28, 32, 36-43, 46-50, 52-55, 58, 60-66 69, 70, and 75-78; argued against rejections previously set forth in previous Office Action.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 11 Sep. 2008 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. There is not a submission of an English translation of the Japanese application No. 2005-505000. The information disclosure statement has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ferenc Pazmandi on 03 July 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

1-25. Canceled

26. (Currently Amended) A document management system, comprising:

a document storage device configured to store at least one XML electronic document describing metadata related to broadcasting a plurality of television programs, the XML electronic document having a hierarchical structure comprising an upper structural element and a plurality of lower structural elements located below the upper structural element in the hierarchical structure to describe broadcast information and content information for each of the television programs; and

a document receiving device coupled to the document storage device to receive updates to the XML electronic document, each of the received updates including the upper structural element and updated information for a subset of the plurality of lower structural elements, wherein the received update has an upper structure version value for the upper structural element and a respective lower structure version value for each lower structural element in the subset, the upper structure version value being different from one or more of the lower structure version values, and wherein the document receiving device is configured to process one of multiple versions of the XML electronic document according to the version values in the updates to the XML electronic document[[.]].

wherein a lower structure version value is updated for one of the lower structural elements when content in that lower structural element of the XML electronic document is changed, and the updated lower structure version value for that lower structural element is used as the upper structure version value for the upper structural element, and

wherein a type of the content of the lower element is added into the upper structure version value of the upper structural element.

27-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The document management system of claim 26, wherein each version value includes date and time information according to when said contents of the corresponding element was updated.

30. (Previously presented) The document management system of claim 26, wherein the document receiving device is configured to request the XML document.

31-32 (Canceled)

33. (Previously presented) The document management system of claim 26, wherein version information of said contents is defined by a syntax of said electronic document.

34. (Previously presented) The document management system of claim 33, wherein said syntax is XML schema.

35. (Previously presented) The document management system of claim 34, wherein said contents includes at least one member from the group of title, synopsis, review,

Art Unit: 2176

and casting for each of the television programs.

36. (Currently amended) A method implemented by an apparatus for updating a portion of an electronic document describing metadata related to broadcasting a plurality of television programs, the electronic document having a hierarchical structure that includes an upper structural element and a plurality of lower structural elements located below the upper structural element in the hierarchical structure to describe broadcast information and content information for each of the television programs, wherein each element is based on XML and stored in a client, the method comprising:

requesting an updated version of a subset of said lower structural elements of the electronic document describing metadata, wherein the subset is related to one or more of the television programs scheduled for broadcast;

receiving an update to the electronic document in response to the request, the received update including the upper structural element and said updated version of said subset of the lower structural elements, wherein said received updated version is identified by an upper structure version value for the upper structural element and a respective lower structure version value for each lower structural element in the subset, the upper structure version value being different from one or more of the lower structure version values; and

updating said subset of the lower structural elements stored in said client with said received updated version of said subset of the lower structural, elements without replacing the electronic document in its entirety[[]].

Art Unit: 2176

wherein, when said subset of the lower structural elements is changed, the respective lower structure version value for each of the lower structural elements is updated and the updated lower structure version values are reflected in the upper structure version value of said upper structural element,

wherein a largest value among the lower structure version values for the lower structural elements is used as the upper structure version value of the upper structural element,
and

wherein a type of at least one of the updated lower structural elements is added into the upper structure version value of the upper structural element.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said lower structure version values include date and time information according to when contents in the subset of the lower structural elements were updated.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said requesting comprises transmitting a current version of said subset of the lower structural elements, and wherein at least one of said lower structure version values of said received updated version indicates a later version than said current version.

40-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein version information of said contents is defined by a syntax of said electronic document.
44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said syntax is XML schema.
45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said contents includes at least one member from the group of title, synopsis, review, and casting of the one or more television programs.
46. (Canceled)
47. (Currently amended) A method implemented by an apparatus for processing a response to a request for updating an electronic document describing metadata related to broadcasting a plurality of television programs, the electronic document having a hierarchical structure that includes an upper structural element and a plurality of lower structural elements located below the upper structural element in the hierarchical structure to describe broadcast information and content information for each of the television programs, wherein each element is based on XML and stored in a client and the request for updating the electronic document requests an updated version of a subset of the lower structural elements, the method comprising:

updating said subset of the lower structural elements stored in said client with the updated version of said subset of the lower structural elements without replacing the electronic document in its entirety, wherein said updated version of the subset of the lower structural elements is received in combination with the upper structural element and is identified by an upper structure version value for the upper structural element and a respective lower structure version value for each lower structural element in the subset, the upper structure version value being different from one or more of the lower structure version values[.]],

wherein, when said subset of the lower structural elements is changed, the lower structure version value for each of the lower structure is updated and the updated lower structure version values are reflected in the upper structure version value of said upper structural element,

wherein a largest value among the lower structure version values for the lower structural elements is used as the upper structure version value of the upper structural element,
and

wherein a type of at least one of the updated lower structural elements is added into the upper structure version value of the upper structural element.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising:
receiving an update to the electronic document in response to the request, the received update including the upper structural element and said updated version of said subset of the lower structural elements identified by said upper structure version value

and lower structure version values from a provider.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said version lower structure values include date and time information according to when said metadata in the subset of the lower structural elements were updated.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said request comprises a selected version of said subset of the lower structural elements, and wherein said received updated version of said subset of the lower structural elements is later than said selected version.

52-54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein version information is defined by a syntax of said electronic document, and wherein said syntax is XML schema.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said metadata includes at least one member from the group of title, synopsis, review, and casting for one or

more of said television programs.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently amended) A method implemented by an apparatus for updating a portion of an electronic document describing metadata related to broadcasting a plurality of television programs, the electronic document having a hierarchical structure that includes an upper structural element and a plurality of lower structural elements located below the upper structural element in the hierarchical structure to describe broadcast information and content information for each of the television programs, wherein each element is based on XML, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a client for an updated version of a subset of said lower structural elements of the electronic document describing metadata, wherein the subset is related to one or more of the television programs scheduled for broadcast; determining whether a provider has a capability of handling said request for the updated version; and

supplying an update to the electronic document in response to the request, the supplied update including the upper structural element and said updated version of said subset of the lower structural elements in accordance with a determined result, wherein said updated version is identified by an upper structure version value for the upper structural element and a respective lower structure version value for each lower

structural element in the subset, the upper structure version value being different from one or more of the lower structure version values[[]],

wherein, when said subset of the lower structural elements is changed, the lower structure version value for each of the lower structural elements is updated and the updated version value is reflected in the upper structure version value of said upper structural element,

wherein a largest value among the lower structure version values for the lower structural elements is used as the structure version value of the upper structural element, and wherein a type of at least one of the updated lower structural elements is added into the upper structure version value of the upper structural element.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein said request for said updated version of said subset of the lower structural elements identifies said subset of the lower structural elements using element identification and a current element version.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising:
identifying a version of said subset of the lower structural elements as being later than a requested version of said subset of the lower structural elements in said provider as said updated version of said subset of the lower structural elements.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein said lower structure version values include date and time information according to when said metadata in

the subset of the lower structural elements were updated.

62-65. (Canceled)

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein version information is defined by a syntax of said electronic document.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein said syntax is XML schema.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein said metadata includes at least one member from the group of title, synopsis, review, and casting of the one or more television programs.

69 (Canceled)

70. (Currently amended) A method implemented by an apparatus for managing an electronic document describing metadata related to broadcasting a plurality of television programs, the electronic document having a hierarchical structure that includes an upper structural element and a plurality of lower structural elements located below the upper structural element in the hierarchical structure to describe broadcast information

and content information for each of the television programs, wherein each element is based on XML and stored in a client, the method comprising:

maintaining a version information for each of said lower structural elements of the electronic document describing metadata related to the television programs, wherein said version information comprises date information and/or time information; and

transmitting to the client an update to the electronic document, the transmitted update including the upper structural element and an updated version of said subset of the lower structural elements, wherein said updated version is identified by an upper structure version value for the upper structural element and a respective lower structure version value for each lower structural element in the subset, the upper structure version value being different from one or more of the lower structure version value and being based on the version information for the subset of the lower structural elements[.].

wherein, when said subset of the lower structural elements is changed, the lower structure version value for each of the lower structural elements is updated and the updated lower structure version value is reflected in the upper structure version value of said upper structural element,

wherein a largest value among the lower structure version values for the lower structural elements is used as the structure version value of the upper structural element, and wherein a type of at least one of the updated lower structural elements is added into the upper structure version value of the upper structural element.

Art Unit: 2176

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein the version information includes date and time information according to when said metadata in the subset of said lower structural elements were updated.

73. (Canceled)

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70, further comprising:
receiving a request for the updated version of said subset of the lower structural elements.

75-77. (Canceled)

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein said version information is defined by a syntax of said electronic document.

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said syntax is XML schema.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said metadata includes at least one member from the group of title, synopsis, review, and casting of one or

more of the television programs.

81-86. (Canceled)

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to disclose or suggest the combination of limitations recited in each of the independent claims. Particularly, the amended claims overcome prior art(s) of record Azami et al. (Pub. No. 2003/0009472 A1) and Reed et al. (Pat. No. 6,088,717) in that the claimed invention cites *a type of the content of the lower element is added into the upper structure version value of the upper structural element*. This is supported within the specification, page 12, paragraphs 52-53 and Fig. 5.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James J. Debrow whose telephone number is 571-272-5768. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JAMES DEBROW
EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2176

/Doug Hutton/
Doug Hutton
Supervisory Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2100